

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 9/23/77

007

FM MEMPHIS (194-16) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

E F T O

ERNEST COLUMBUS WITHERS, AGENT, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION,
STATE OF TENNESSEE; HOBBS ACT - CORRUPTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

b6
b7C

OO: ME.

[REDACTED] ADVISED SEPT. 13, 1977, SHE HAD BEEN
CONTACTED BY SUBJECT, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AN INMATE AT FORT PILLOW STATE PRISON,
WOULD BE MOVED FROM THAT INSTITUTION TO A WORK RELEASE CENTER.
WITHERS ALSO TOLD HER THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST STEP IN GETTING
[REDACTED] RELEASED FROM PRISON IF SHE HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO SWING
THE DEAL.

AUSA DANIEL CLANCY, MEMPHIS, CONTACTED FOR A PRELIMINARY
OPINION AND HE ADVISED THIS CASE WOULD FIT WITHIN THE GUIDELINES

CEH:wp
(1)194-14-2
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per [Signature]

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

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OF THE HOBBS ACT - CORRUPTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS. AUSA CLANCY
ALSO APPROVED RECORDING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN
[REDACTED] AND WITHERS.

ON SEPT. 13, 1977, [REDACTED] GAVE HER WRITTEN PERMISSION
TO HAVE THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION RECORDED. SHE SUBSEQUENTLY
CALLED WITHERS AT HIS BUSINESS NUMBER AND RECORDED A CONVERSATION
LASTING APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES. DURING THIS CONVERSATION,
WITHERS REITERATED HIS PROMISE TO HAVE [REDACTED] MOVED TO A WORK
RELEASE CENTER FOR \$2,000. HE ALSO INDICATED HE FELT CERTAIN
THAT [REDACTED] COULD BE RELEASED AFTER HE HAD "ACQUIRED THE PROPER
BACKGROUND." WITHERS WOULD NOT TELL [REDACTED] EXACTLY HOW MUCH
IT WOULD COST TO GET [REDACTED] OUT OF PRISON BUT INDICATED IT WOULD
BE AT LEAST \$12,000 TO \$16,000.

[REDACTED] WORKING WITH MEMPHIS OFFICE IN ATTEMPTING TO
ARRANGE A MEETING WITH WITHERS TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS
FOR WITHERS' TRIP TO NASHVILLE.

ERNEST COLUMBUS WITHERS WAS FORMERLY DESIGNATED AS
ME 338-R, [REDACTED]
CAPTIONED "ERNEST COLUMBUS WITHERS; CI." THESE CASES WERE

b2
b7D

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) _____ Per _____

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CLOSED AS OF SEPTEMBER, 1976.

MEMPHIS, AT MEMPHIS, WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH

 REGARDING HER NEGOTIATIONS WITH SUBJECT.

BT

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(Number) (Time)